

City of Lawton, Oklahoma Proclamation

Whereas, the City of Lawton recognizes that the Indigenous Peoples of the land that would later become known as the Americas have occupied these lands since time immemorial; and were the traditional homelands, villages and use areas of the Comanche, Kiowa and Apache of this region, without whom the building of the city would not be possible; and

Whereas, Indigenous Peoples hand down oral histories, science, governance, a distinct relationship with water, land, rocks, native plants, birds, fish and animals, and invaluable cultural knowledge and rich traditions that continue to thrive in Lawton; and

Whereas, Indigenous Peoples who have been here since time immemorial continue to contribute immeasurably to our country, state and city's heritage, distinguishing themselves as scholars, veterans, teachers, athletes, artists, entrepreneurs and community leaders; and

Whereas, the Indigenous population of the Lawton Metro area is over 20,000 people, descended from more than 500 tribes/bands from across the nation; and

Whereas, the City promotes and works in collaboration with Indigenous Peoples through good policies, culturally responsive practices and investments that reflect the experiences of Indigenous Peoples, ensuring greater access and opportunity, and honoring our nation's Indigenous history and contributions; and

Whereas, the City of Lawton continues to promote the prosperity, well-being, and self-determination of the American Indian, Alaska Native, and Indigenous community.

Whereas, on January 9, 2018, Lawton City Council passed a resolution resolving that the City of Lawton shall recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day on the Second Monday of October each year.

Now, Therefore, I, Stanley Booker, Mayor, City of Lawton, Oklahoma, do hereby recognize October 11th, 2021 as

Indigenous Peoples' Day

and encourage all residents, businesses, organizations, and public institutions to observe this day by reflecting upon the ongoing struggles of Indigenous Peoples on this land, and to celebrate the thriving culture and value that Indigenous Peoples add to our city.

In witness whereof, I hereunto set my hand and cause the Official Seal of the City of Lawton, Oklahoma, to be affixed hereto this 11th day of October 2021.

Stanley Booker, Mayor